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The Voice

Edited by: Janet Hofmann and Megan Crosser

November 4, 2011

Algona High School *Xanadu* Jessica Mueller

The Algona High School Theatre and Speech website says, "*Xanadu* follows the journey of a magical and beautiful Greek muse, Kira, who descends from the heavens of Mt. Olympus to Venice Beach, California, in 1980, on a quest to inspire a struggling artist, Sonny." The Greek muses come to Venice, California, to save the arts. Kira convinces the muses to help Sonny in his quest to start roller disco. They use the help of Danny, the owner of the theater.

Gareth Hinds

Taylor Setzer

Several high school classes headed to the library on Tuesday, October 18, for a special presentation from the graphic novelist Gareth Hinds.

Gareth Hinds started drawing at the age of four. In high school he started drawing cartoons for his high school paper. Hinds has since written many graphic novels including *Bearskin*, *Beowulf*, and *King Lear*.

The students from creative writing traveled to the library in the morning to learn about the writing side of Hinds' job. Hinds showed them how he starts the work, his brainstorming process, and even drew out a couple of example ideas. The afternoon art

While creating the theater, Sonny and Kira fall in love. Ms. Elle said, "The students have worked hard. The production has great music and fun dance scenes. It's an overall night of fun."

Nicole Kenne, a junior, Cameron Lahndorf, a sophomore, and Scott Haas, a senior, star as the leads in the play. Some of the other students in the production are Mikayla Torpy, Krystyna Diggins, Hunter Buscherfeld, Katlyn Loeschen, Breanna Johnson, Chyan

classes learned more about the hands on, technical part of being a graphic novelist. The computer application students traveled to the library at the end of the day to learn about the gaming side of Hinds' job.

Hinds informed the students on all aspects of his job, from schooling information to how to publish your own graphic novel. He also explained to the students that a graphic novel is just a longer version of a comic book. All the students had a great time and enjoyed learning from a professional. Julie Grether said, "It was very interesting and informative."

Many of Gareth Hinds' books are on display at the Algona Public Library.

Metzger, Emily Prilipp, Gabe Combs, Dan Haack, Makayla Metzger, Shelbi Schadendorf, Braden Menke, Courtney Schmitt, Ben Schmitt, Joanna Wilson, Elijah Banwart, Madi Jennings, Corinne Schipull, and many more, completing a cast and crew of over 50 students involved in this production.

There are 13 musical pieces in the play. The students have put countless hours of practice into this production. They have been practicing since the first day

of school. By the time they perform the play, they will have a total of 33 practices.

The play opened on Thursday, November 3rd. You still have a chance to see it on Saturday, November 5th, at the O.B. Lang Middle School Auditorium. The curtain opens at 7:30 p.m. You can buy tickets at Premier Pizza in advance or at the door. Cost for everyone is \$5. Come check out a fun, glittery night!



Right: Nicole Kenne & Cameron Lahndorf star in *Xanadu*.



Left: Gareth Hinds works with creative writing students Gabby Gonzalez and Hannah Haverkamp.

Alguna High School Let's get involved

Katie Riley

Quiz Bowl is an activity that students at Algona High School are able to participate in if they would like. Quiz Bowl involves three teams competing against each other to answer questions. Whichever team has the most points at the end of each match wins.

Quiz Bowl is an extra-curricular activity. You have to know about events and news in the area and world wide.

Usually there are four rounds before lunch and the finals take place after lunch.

The Quiz Bowl coach at AHS is Mrs. Wichendahl. There are anywhere from two to four students per team. Junior at AHS, Jacob Kofoot, said, "I love participating in Quiz Bowl. It is very enjoyable and we always learn and have fun

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while doing it."

Some memorable events that have happened this season include fifty-one teams competing at the Garrigan tournament, and AHS seeded or placed eleventh and twelfth. In the Ankeny tournament, both of the AHS teams finished 3-2.

The next Quiz Bowl tournament is tomorrow, November 5th, here at AHS.

Congratulations to those people involved in the past tournaments and best of luck at tomorrow's competition!

One of AHS's best

Sawyer Brandt

This week's teacher spotlight is on Mr. Connick. He was born in Wayne, Nebraska, on January 29, 1967. He has been interested in history for as long as he can remember. His great grandmother would tell him stories of living in sod houses and coming to Nebraska in a covered wagon, these stories seemed to set off an instant spark.

Mr. Connick has always been a family man. He has three daughters and a wife. He also has two dogs, one of which is a German short hair whom he takes along hunting. Mr. Connick says he has been to a lot of places, "Algona is a great school system with great kids. It's just a great place to work."

Connick hasn't always taught at Algona High. After attending Kearney State in Kearney, Nebraska, he taught at a high school called Walthill, which is on

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the Omaha Nation Reservation.

Although Connick is done with college, he still takes post-graduate classes and earned his master's from SW Minnesota State.

He has been coaching since he was in high school, when he coached little league baseball. He has since coached just about every sport a school has to offer. Connick is currently the girls' Co-head track coach along with Mr. Yi.

In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, canoeing, and doing stuff around the house. So if you ever see this very interesting man, ask him a question. You will hear one of the best



Veteran's Day

Teresa Regehr

The middle school is having a Veteran's Day program on November 10th at 10:00 a.m. This program will be held in the middle school gym. The fifth through eighth grade students will be attending. In the past, fifty to eighty veterans have attended. The veterans don't need to be in their uniforms. The middle school has this program every year. The program lasts thirty to forty minutes.

The program will contain some speakers. One speaker is Carly Seely, the middle school student council presi-

dent. The other speaker is a veteran. The students will sing the "National Anthem" and say the "Pledge of Allegiance." The band will play the "Military Salute." The chorus will sing a song. Next the veterans will be recognized. Each veteran will get a flower pinned on them. They will listen to the "Taps and Echoes."

After the ceremony, they will have coffee and be able to talk.

Veteran's Day is always on November 11. On Veteran's Day, people are supposed to remember the

people at war, who were in the war, or who lost their lives in the war. This is a day people need to observe and recognize the men and women who have served, who are serving, or who have lost their lives fighting for our country. Without the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force troops, where would our country be?



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Haunted places!

Jeremy Black

Monday was Halloween. Halloween was the perfect time to visit a few supposedly haunted places.

Plum Creek Pits.

Back in the far corner of the pits, there has been said to be a little boy playing near the water's edge. Legend has it that the little boy was running back to the river on the other side of the pits when he tripped on a stone and was stabbed by a stick he fell on. Some local fishermen who used to fish there say they have seen this boy walking on the bank of the pit. When they yelled to him, he seemed to have looked up and ran back towards the river and disappeared. Nobody knows what this boy's name was or how old he was.

Gypsy Graveyard.

Just north of town is a small graveyard with an even smaller graveyard fenced off towards the back. It has been said that when the gypsy wagon train would pass through town back in the 1800's, and one of them were sick and dying, they would stop instead of taking them further on the journey. Possibly not having gypsy hallowed ground to bury them in, they would just bury them at the gypsy graveyard while they were still alive. They didn't want to continue with them and have them die elsewhere, without a gypsy cemetery nearby.

Many ghostly figures have been seen walking around, and if you cross the small fence and walk on hal-

lowed ground, you will be cursed. This is rumored to be a favorite haunt for local teens.

Little Africa. There are several places here that have been the scene of murders. The old bridge you cross has been the place of two hangings. Two of the roads have had accidents on them because people claim things have been standing in the middle of the road and won't move. The old farm house is said to have the spirit of the old maid. She worked for the family and had an affair, so the husband killed her . . . the family left right after and everything in the house is still there.

If you missed going to any of these places, there is always next year! These places are only rumored to be haunted and aren't necessarily true.



Jessica Mueller

MaKayla Metzger

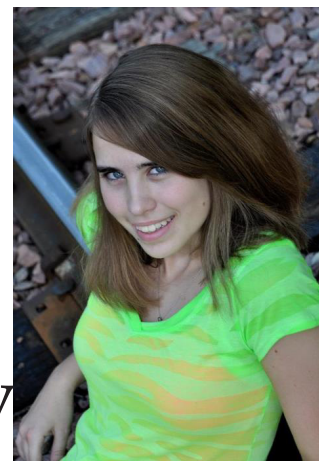
This week's Senior Spotlight is on Jessica Mueller. Jessica was born in Mason City, on January 27, 1994. She has always lived in Algona. Jessica's parents are Jolene and Frank Mueller. She has one sister, Jamie Mueller.

Jessica works at KFC. Her favorite thing to do is listen to music. She also likes to hang out with friends, go to movies, and sit by a fire. Her favorite places to shop are Deb's and Van-ity.

During her freshman year, Jessica was on the basketball team. She says, "The worst thing about high school is when seniors can't leave for open cam-

pus because of activities going on throughout the day." The best things about high school for Jessica are Superstars and Homecoming. Her favorite classes are Creative Writing and Contemporary World Lit.

Be sure to tell Jessica "hi" the next time you see her.



Career Day

Rachel Feuring

Do you know what you want to do for the rest of your life? If you're not sure, you might have found out at this year's Career Day 2011 at Algona High. All students got to participate in this event. It was on November 1, 2011, from 8:30- 10:45 am. On the sign up paper, the students got to choose their top five out of the many choices there were.

Some of the categories to choose from were: agriculture, food and natural resources, architecture and construction, arts, AV technology and communications, business, management and administration, education and training, finance, health science, hospitality and tourism, human services, information technology, law, public safety, corrections and security, manufacturing, marketing, sales and

service, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, transportation, distribution and logistics, the military, and many more!

On Career Day, professionals from the area came in and talked about what they do for a job, what classes to take in high school to prepare for your future, the positives and negatives of their jobs, and many more things.

If one of these many careers interested you, the counselors, Mrs. Stein and Mr. McLaughlin, can give you more information about the specific careers. They can help you get on the right track for colleges in that field. Ali Grein said, "It was very interesting, I learned a lot from it." Hope everyone had a fun Career Day and learned a few things.

Celeste Smith

The drill team girls are three weeks from State and are working hard. They have morning practice at six a.m. three times a week and practice after school everyday. State for the team is three weeks away, and State solos are this weekend!

As a team, the girls will be competing in kick and jazz. They have their kick routine learned and are working to get all the kinks out. The song for kick is "The Beautiful People" by Christina Aguilera. The girls have learned about thirty seconds of their jazz song thus far. The jazz song is "Mamma Knows Best" by Jessie J.

State solos are this Saturday, November 5th, in Pella. Amanda Bernhard and Jenna Thul will be representing AHS at State solos. They have been work-

ing since July to perfect their solos. Amanda's dancing to "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman. She says, "It's a great experience, but I'm super nervous." Jenna's dancing to "Gotcha." She says, "I'm really excited for Saturday and I hope I place." If you see Amanda and Jenna, wish them good luck!



Time for basketball!

Dylan Cink

As fall sports are starting to wrap up, it is about time to start looking at the winter sports. One of those sports happens to be basketball.

This year's men's and women's basketball teams are looking to add to the success of the previous teams before them. Their year will officially start on November 14th, as that is the first day of practice for the teams. After being asked about practice starting up, Sawyer Frideres said, "I'm excited to get back in shape."

Some returning letterwinners on the boys' side of the ball include Sam Lipps, Dylan Cink, and Sawyer Frideres. Returning letterwinners for the girls include Heather Ziesman, Jade Simpson, and Paige Yi.

The first game for the girls is on November 22nd at Forest City. The first game for the boys is on November 28th at home against Charles City. As these teams have worked hard in the offseason, it will be fun to see how everything turns out this season for both the men's and women's teams.

Sports

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Coach's Corner

Bronson Jergenson

This week in coach's corner is Mr. Gregg Wellman. Wellman coaches two sports. He is the J.V. football coach and also the head boys' track coach. Mr. Wellman is a graduate of Simpson College has been coaching for 23 years now. His first coaching job was at Simpson college, coaching football and track. From there he moved to Clarinda, where he started his first high school coaching job.

Mr. Wellman has a wife, Sandy, four step sons (Jacob, Bronson, Landon, and Nolan), and a new baby girl named Haylen.

One of Wellman's favorite coaching moments was from last year's track team when Ryan McMahon won the mile at State Track. For this year's team, he is expecting them to be a hard working team, but he also knows that the team will be young this year. He said there will be many different options with this year's team and he is very excited to see what happens.

One of his long term goals for coaching is to be happy with what he is doing and to hopefully coach until the day he dies.

Trip to the Cyclones

Kuleen Parsons

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, the senior football players went on a trip to Ames to see the Iowa State campus and also to watch the Cyclones play football. Fifteen seniors went to watch the Cyclones play Texas A&M. The trip was a fun way to end their high school football career.

Before the game, they toured the museum and the football training facility at Iowa State. At the museum, they saw a video about how they named the Jack Trice Stadium. ISU is building a new indoor training facility that will be home to their football program.

Before the game, they got to watch the spirit walk. The spirit walk is when the football players walk

through the tailgaters and down the sidewalk to their locker room. The crowd makes a tunnel for the football team to go through and also so the fans can see their favorite coach or player.

After the spirit walk, they got to go to the sidelines and watch the team warm up. For the rest of the game, they watched from the stands. Alex Smith says, "Overall it was a good time."



School News

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A moment that lasts New to AHS

forever

Tashia Lemus

The AHS choir performed on Tuesday, October 25. The Mixed Chorus sang "Et in terra pax," and "Festival Introit." The Concert Choir sang "Dies Irae," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "My Soul is a River," "Requiem," and "The Awakening." Mr. Kelley said, "It was very impressive to see students grasp such a deep theme in 9/11 and be able to portray the various emotions from song to song that represented the tragedy of that day and the soul's journey." The concert on October 25 was very successful

While in class, the AHS choirs use their time wisely to practice dynamics, emotion, and memory in all of their pieces. If you happen to pass by in the halls during first or third periods, you will hear them singing, and maybe you could sing along too!

The AHS choirs are currently moving on to their Christmas selections to prepare for the Holiday Concert on Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm and the Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 4 from 4-8 pm."

Going to the mat

Colbi Culpepper

Wrestling season is just around the corner, with practices starting on November 14th.

This year's team consists of 15 returning letterwinners. The Bulldogs pulled away with a 7-6 record last year. The team did well last season, but there is always room for improvement. The Conference AHS

is in is competitive from top to bottom.

The first meet of the season takes place on Thursday, December 1st, at Eagle Grove. JV starts at 6:30 pm and Varsity starts at 7:30 pm. Joe Teague says, "I'm looking forward to a great year!"

Emily McFarland & Mrs. Spear

There's a new faculty face at AHS this year. Mrs. Singer is the new Spanish and psychology teacher. She is originally from the Washington D.C. area and moved to Algona 30 years ago. She received her teaching degree from James Madison University.

Mrs. Singer likes Spanish and loves to teach languages. Before coming to

AHS, she taught at TRV and Humboldt. She has been teaching for 20 years.

She is glad she could come teach at AHS. She loves how everyone is so nice and friendly. "I come to school everyday with a smile on my face. I love it here," says Mrs. Singer.

Mrs. Singer has a few hobbies. She enjoys knitting, reading, traveling, and shopping. She also likes to collect Hello Kitty items; they are all over her classroom.

Mrs. Singer has been married to her husband, Marc, for over 30 years. She has two daughters, both graduates of AHS. Lauren graduated in 2000 and Rebecca graduated in 2006. She also has an English bulldog names Winston.

Be sure make Mrs. Singer feel welcome by telling her hi the next time you see her!



Germes!

Emily McFarland

The Skills for Living classes did an experiment on germs at the high school. It turns out that there is a lot of bacteria around the school and we touch them almost everyday. This does not mean the custodians don't clean the high school, they do a very nice and wonderful job of cleaning the school, but you can't keep it clean all the time. Right after you clean something, there is already bacteria landing on it.

The class took 20 samples around the school, from a computer keyboard to the bottom of a book bag,

from a lunch tray to the gym walls.

When you touch any of those things, the bacteria transfers to your hands. So the Skills for Living class asks you to always wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry them to avoid spreading bacteria and getting sick.

For more information on what places had the most germs, check out the posters hanging up around the school.



Above: Jade Simpson, Brooke Benschoter, Bergen Brown, Megann Schmidt, Rachel Stein, and Emily Connick are very excited to be at the Student Senate Leadership Conference at ISU on Monday, October 31, 2011.

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The Guy Code: Bathroom Etiquette

Nick Bitz

Recently a question has been presented: why are there not privacy dividers for the urinals at Algona High. A norm is put in place by society to regulate behaviors around urinals. The way the bathrooms at AHS are set up now, the Guy Code must be followed; if there were dividers, all urinals could be used.

The Guy Code is an unwritten law of how guys are to act to be "manly". When any of these rules are broken, the guy is subject to humiliation, and his "guy status" is revoked for the rest of the day.

Rules for the bathroom are simple but incredibly important to follow. First, no eye contact is to be made; however, it is important to keep eyes facing forward. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for eyes to drift. Do not talk. If you see someone you know, an "I recognize you" nod will do

just fine. If you accidentally touch or brush against any part of another man, it is an understood accident, and NO apologies are necessary.

Most important to retaining your guy status is urinal selection. If no urinals are taken, you should choose one of the end urinals, that way the next person to come in may take the other end and keep the biggest possible gap. Never at any point should there be two guys standing next to each other at urinals. Two exceptions apply: 1) At a sporting event or other situation where the bathroom will always have a line or 2) when there are privacy dividers. If neither of the two exceptions are met, then a guy must wait for a urinal to open up or use a stall.

Hopefully if males follow these unenforced Guy Code rules, awkwardness at AHS will not happen.

Puss in Boots

Mike Vandy

Looking to take the kids out to a friendly movie? Then go to *Puss in Boots* in theaters today. The movie is a prequel to the *Shrek* series and has a stellar cast which includes Salma Hayek, Billy Bob Thornton, Zach Galifianakis, and of course, Antonio Banderas as Puss in Boots.

The story is about Puss before he met Shrek and Donkey. He has a friend named Humpty Dumpty

and, for a while, they both are criminals. Then Puss becomes a hero to the townspeople and Humpty gets jealous.

From here, the movie gets interesting as Humpty tries to make Puss bad again, only to get them both in trouble and the end result is Puss becomes an outlaw.

Does Puss clear his name? Do him and Humpty remain friends? The only way to know is to go see this



Left: Winners of the best dressed for AHS trick-or-treating pose for a picture.

#1-Hanna Harmon
#2-Becca Illg
#3-Amy Kaiser
#4-Liz Burtis
#5-Angela Kluesner

Wanna catch something wild?

AJ Wagner

Trapping season starts on November 5th. You will be able to trap red fox, raccoons, coyote, beaver, muskrats, mink, and opossums.

Before you decided to go and set out traps, make sure you have your hunting licence and fur harvester licence.

There are many different places you can set traps, but make sure you're 200 yards away from a home if you don't have permission to trap the ditch or property

there. Several good places to trap include along creeks, rivers, and fence lines by the ditch or fields.

There are many different ways to set traps. Some trap types are snares, leg holds, or conibear, or a live trap. Brandon Lee says, "I'm excited for the fun to begin!"

movie which is 90 minutes long and rated G. The movie Andres Guillen says, "Is a good story for all ages," is in theaters now.

